GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:90
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2006
RURAL WELFARE SCHEMES .
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The schemes launched by the Government for promotion of rural welfare during the last three years and the current year;

(b) The funds released/allocated/utilised under each scheme during the said period, State- wise;

(c) Whether diversion of funds have been reported from certain States and a number of representations sent by many Members of Parliament have been received by the Government;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) The steps taken by the Government to check recurrence;

(f) Whether the Government is aware that a large number of rural people are committing suicides particularly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab;

(g) If so, the reason therefor; and

(h) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 90 due for 28.7.2006.

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development launched during the last three years (i.e. 2003-04 to 2005-06) the schemes namely,
(i) National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts in the country, as identified by the Planning Commission,
(ii) implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 200 most backward districts in the country

(including 150 districts of the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) as decided by the Planning Commission,
(iii) Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) and
(iv) National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme (NRWQM & SP). Besides, during 2005-06 a major plan for rebuilding rural India called `Bharat Nirman` was launched to be implemented over a period of four years for building infrastructure in rural India. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three components namely; rural roads, rural drinking water supply and rural housing of the total six components (viz. assured irrigation, road connectivity to villages, construction of additional houses for poor, drinking water to remaining uncovered habitations, electricity to villages and telephone connectivity to remaining village) of Bharat Nirman.

(b) State-wise funds released, allocated and utilised under these schemes are given in the enclosed statement (Annexure-I).

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has received some cases of diversion of funds including mis-appropriation of funds under these schemes and such cases have been immediately taken up with the concerned State Government for remedial measures/appropriate action. In order to check such recurrence, the Ministry has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer`s Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor quality of work, adherence to implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a four- pronged strategy consisting of
(i) creation of awareness about the schemes,
(ii) transparency,
(iii) People`s Partnership and
(iv) accountability- social audit through Gram Sabha.

(f) to (h) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received reports from the State Governments regarding suicides by large number of rural people. However, the number of cases of suicide by farmers during the last three years has been received by the Ministry of Agriculture, as reported by the State Governments. According to the information, the broad causes attributed by the State Governments for committing suicide by farmers are as follows:

Crop failure;

Indebtedness due to high rate interest loans;

Drought; and

Social & Economic insecurity

The Government of India has accorded the highest priority to revitalization of rural economy including agriculture sector and bringing improvement in the conditions of farmers. For this purpose a number of schemes are undertaken in various Sates and farmers are given assistance under different components. Most of the schemes are being implemented through the State Governments. The policy decisions are
(i) doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities
(ii) restructure the rate of interest in favour of farmers,
(iii) revamping of cooperative credit structure.
(iv) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS),
(v) special package of rehabilitation to mitigate the distress of farmers in the districts, registering high incidence of farmers suicide in the identified States namely, Maharahstra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas.